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**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0053EA

PROJECT NAME: Mountain Parks Electric Feeder Line in North Park

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 9 N., R. 79 W., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 20, 29;
T. 10 N., R. 79 W., Sections 29, 31; 6th P.M.

KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE, KREMMLING, COLORADO

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-73791

APPLICANT: Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. (Mountain Parks) constructed a substation north of Walden in 2009. Jackson County currently only has one power line from the substation to service Walden. If that line goes down there is no backup power supply. This proposed line would allow Mountain Parks to continue servicing the County and provide more reliable service in the future if the existing service was interrupted.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

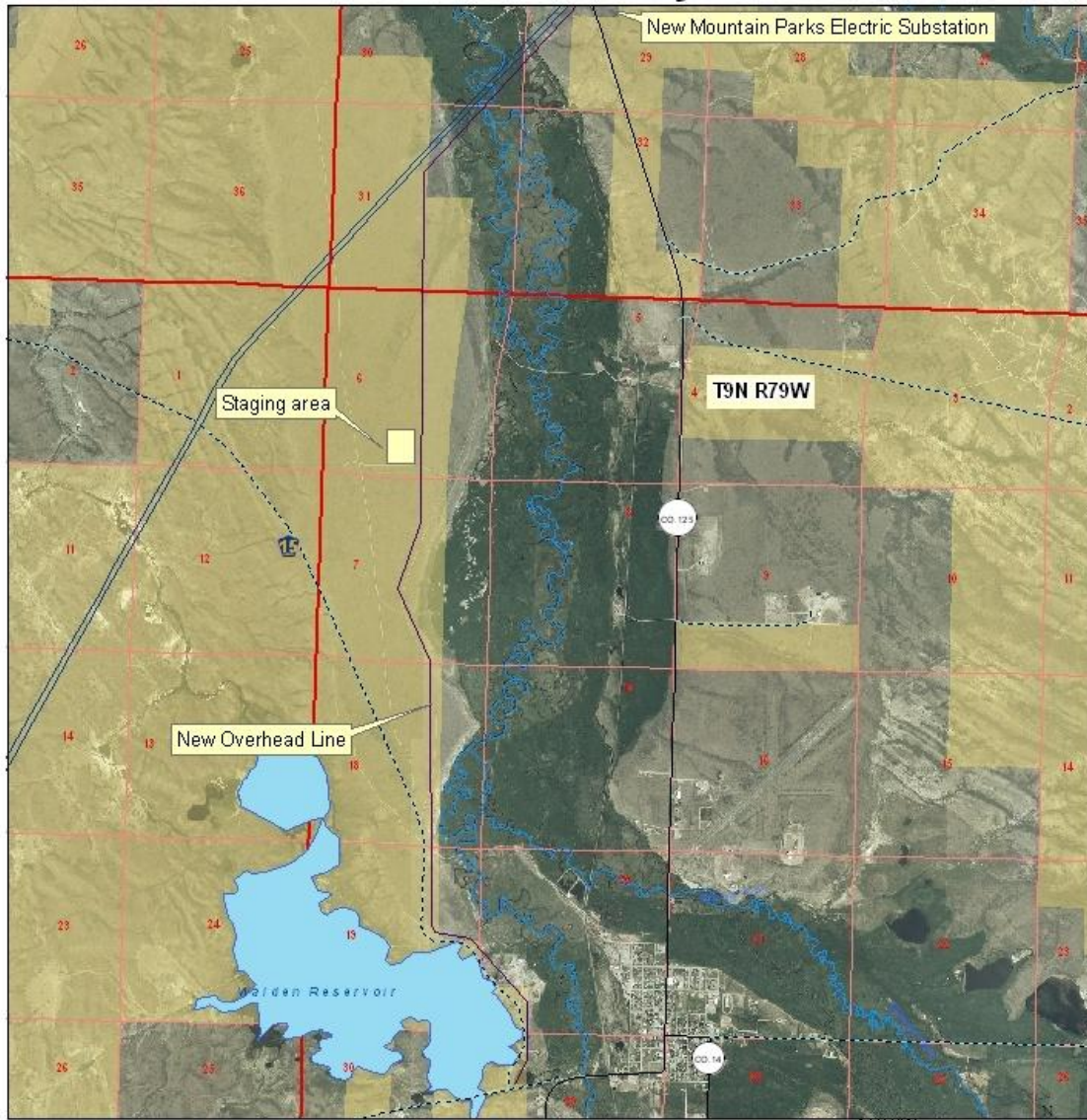
Proposed Action: The proposed project is for an overhead three phase 24.9 kV power line with guys and anchors as necessary. There will be a single 40 foot tall pole every 275 feet, which will have four wires and a ten foot cross arm on each pole. The entire length of the project is 6.91 miles long and 5.35 miles across BLM-administered land. The right-of-way would be 100 feet wide encompassing 64.85 acres of public land. The access follows existing two-tracks or county roads. When the line reaches the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) transmission line, Mountain Parks will parallel the transmission line to the substation with their 100 foot ROW placed five feet outside of WAPA's right-of-way. All old lines that are being replaced on the north end would be removed once the line is energized. There would be a need for a staging area on public land (see attached map). The line would be constructed during the summer of 2010 and would take approximately three to four months to complete.

Design Features of the Proposed Action (see Exhibit B: Standard Stipulations attached to the ROW:

- Due to the close proximity of active sage-grouse leks, no construction would be allowed between March 1 to June 30 to prevent disturbance to sage-grouse during critical periods (breeding and nesting).
- Due to the close proximity of migratory bird/waterfowl ponds, no construction would be allowed between May 15 to July 15 in T. 9 N., R. 79 W., Sections 18, 19, 20 and 29.
- All equipment must be washed prior to entering BLM-administered lands for the construction and maintenance of this project. The holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods.
- All fences on BLM-administered lands should be fixed if damaged during construction by the construction company.
- All areas of vegetation disturbance need to be reseeded to native species (see attached seed mix) following construction (staging areas and temporary roads).
- Mountain Parks Electric needs to avoid sites 5JA865.1, 5JA1989, and 5JA1993 during construction. Mountain Parks Electric must hire a BLM-approved archaeologist to monitor these sites during construction. The BLM archaeologist must be made aware of the start of construction.
- The applicant must obtain required permits (e.g., storm water and Section 404 permits) and follow the terms and conditions of the permits including pre-construction notification.
- No vehicles are allowed in wetland and riparian areas during construction and maintenance.
- Vegetative cover in disturbed areas should be the same or greater (percent cover) than adjacent undisturbed areas at the end of two growing seasons. If not, additional actions (such as soil ripping, reseeded, etc.) would be done to protect soils from wind erosion.
- All construction vehicles should carry an ABC fire extinguisher and shovel.
- All poles and cross arms should be fitted with devices that prevent perching and electrocution.
- The portion of the line in VRM Class II would be placed 50 feet east of the west boundary of the right-of-way as originally proposed (see VRM Management Class Map for portion of line to be moved). All access in this area would be on the east side of the power line so as to stay within the culturally cleared area.

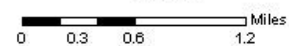


Mountain Parks Feeder Line in Jackson County



Legend

Water Lines	Bureau of Land Mgt
County Roads	Division of Wildlife
Major Roads	National Park
Reservoirs	US Forest Service
Major Creeks	National Wildlife Refuge
Wilderness Study Area	Private
ACB	State
	State Forest



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

NP_161615/30/09
FILE LOCATION: N:\gis\se\hpa\2009

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would be to deny the application for a new feeder line. Mountain Parks Electric would have to search for private land easements to build a feeder line if they wanted to ensure uninterrupted service.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: II-B-12 pg.14

Decision Language: Provide the opportunity to utilize public lands for development of facilities which benefit the public, while considering environmental and agency concerns.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The project would be constructed in sagebrush steppe habitat which supports a variety of migratory bird species. Some of the more common species include Brewer's sparrows, sage sparrows, common nighthawks, green-tailed towhees, sage thrashers, mountain bluebirds, golden eagles, bald eagles, and red-tail hawks.

Environmental Consequences: The project could be hazardous to migratory birds since the new power line would be a new obstacle to birds in flight causing injury and/or mortality if collisions occur. Mortality or injury occurrence as a result of the Proposed Action could initially increase until the birds become accustomed to the new location of the line. Large birds, such as eagles, could be electrocuted if wire spacing is not adequate to avoid contact with their wings. The No Action Alternative would not change existing habitat conditions for migratory birds in the project area since no line would be constructed. Migratory birds would be accustomed to the existing lines and would therefore not be impacted.

Mitigation: None

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: A list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species that could inhabit the proposed project area was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on March 11, 2010. Analysis of this list indicated no threatened or endangered species would be impacted by the proposed project.

Greater sage-grouse, a BLM-designated Sensitive Species and federal candidate species, have been observed in and adjacent to the proposed project area. The closest active strutting ground or lek is located less than 2.0 miles to the east and another lek is located 2.5 miles to the west. Since research has determined that approximately 80 percent of sage-grouse nest within four miles of a lek, it is likely that sage-grouse are nesting and raising young in and adjacent to the project area. The area has also been identified as core habitat by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would provide perching habitat for golden eagles, a bird of prey which preys on sage-grouse. Male sage-grouse are especially vulnerable to eagle predation during the breeding season when they display on strutting grounds or leks. In addition to perching sites for eagles, power distribution lines can be obstacles to sage-grouse in flight with injury or death resulting from collisions with lines, poles, and/or guy wires. Sage-grouse mortality, or injury occurrence as a result of the Proposed Action, could initially increase until the birds become accustomed to the new line. Sage-grouse in the area are also likely to be displaced during construction activities. The No Action Alternative would not change existing habitat conditions for Greater Sage-grouse in the project area since no line would be constructed and displacement would not occur. There would be no additional sites available for eagle predation.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: During assessments in 2000 and 2004, it was determined that the area was meeting Standard 4. Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action alternative is expected to impact Standard 4.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soils within the project area are mapped in the Jackson County Soil Survey, published by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. The BLM portion of the proposed line primarily occurs on areas mapped as Bosler sandy loams, which occur on high terraces and benches. The soils have moderate erosion tolerance without a loss in fertility, and have moderate plant available moisture. With depth, the sandy loam to sandy clay loam textures change to very gravelly loamy coarse sand with a high gravel content. The moderate permeability and lack of slope greatly reduces any water erosion from these areas, but the soil is highly erodible by wind. Valley Bench range sites have fairly harsh growing conditions due to this exposure, much less if the existing vegetation is reduced or removed. Due to the proximity of the existing access road and the low height of the sagebrush/grass vegetative community, there would be limited vegetation clearing or removal needed for the project on public lands.

The area around the public ponds are mapped as Spicerton sandy loams, which tend to occur in low lying areas that receive and hold runoff from upland areas. The thin (0-2 inches) surface soil layer is a sandy loam, with underlying clays. The soils tend to accumulate salts that restrict water intake by plants, and can result in bare areas of soil. The soil is not highly erodible by wind or water.

Environmental Consequences: If vegetation is removed along the proposed electric line, the soils are exposed to the prevalent winds, removing the organic litter and drying the soil

surface. The Proposed Action would not require road construction and routes for cross country travel would not need to be bladed. The staging area would have more repetitive vegetation disturbance, but would also not require vegetation removal or blading. This would result in minimal soil disturbance, except for pole locations. Limiting off-road travel to periods of dry soil conditions would reduce soil compaction and vegetation removal. By reseeding all disturbed soil surfaces, impacts to soils would be minimal and short term. If blading occurs, then the applicant may need to obtain a storm water permit for the disturbance and prepare an erosion control plan to minimize soil loss from the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would leave soil undisturbed except for the natural exposure created by winds. Off road travel would continue by recreationists during dry and wet conditions and could impact soils without the proposed action occurring.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The project area is meeting the Land Health Standard for upland soils. The Proposed Action is not foreseen to require vegetation removal along the route or in the staging areas, and would not reduce the area's ability to continue to meet the Standard. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to upland soils.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project would be constructed near Walden reservoir which supports a variety of aquatic species including amphibians, pelicans, avocets, Canada geese and dabbling and diving ducks.

Environmental Consequences: The project could be hazardous to migrating waterfowl since the new power line would be an obstacle to birds in flight causing injury and/or mortality if collisions occur. Mortality or injury occurrence as a result of the Proposed Action could initially increase until the birds become accustomed to the new location of the line. Large birds, such as pelicans, could be electrocuted if wire spacing is not adequate to avoid contact with their wings. The No Action Alternative would not change existing habitat conditions for aquatic birds the project area since no line would be constructed. Birds would be accustomed to the existing lines and therefore would not be impacted.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): During assessments in 2000 and 2004, it was determined that the area was meeting Standard 3. Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action alternative is expected to impact Standard 3.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The area considered for discussing the incremental effects of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions is the CO State Hwy. 14 corridor from Walden to Cowdrey for the next 30 years.

There are presently buried telephone lines within the project corridor. The existing overhead electric line would be replaced on the north end of the project. There is a major transmission line on the north end that heads west into the National Forest.

Direct and indirect impacts resulting from the proposed action would include soil compaction, disturbed vegetation, riparian issues and spread of invasive weed species. Given proposed design features, these impacts would be minimal and of short-term duration, and the Proposed Action would have very few long-term incremental or cumulative impacts. Maintenance would continue on the line for the length of the ROW (30 years). Impacts from maintenance are typically minor as the need for maintenance is very infrequent.

The proposed power line could be hazardous to birds since the lines would be obstacles to birds in flight causing injury and mortality if collisions occur. Birds inhabiting the proposed reconstruction would most likely become accustomed to the existing power line. Electric distribution line poles and cross arms provide perching sites for birds of prey which can prey on sage-grouse, particularly males on strutting grounds. The proposed electric distribution line would provide perch sites for birds of prey, especially golden eagles, which could result in sage-grouse mortality. Design features for this project such as the timing stipulations should help breeding sage grouse.

Development for this area in the future is not expected to increase unless there was an oil and gas boom which has potential. Otherwise this area tends to be mostly ranching and does not tend to be growing. It is not expected that the infrastructure would need to be increased since this new proposed power line is a backup line. That being said, the towns of Walden and Cowdrey have had a history of electric poor service due to the age of the existing facilities, and the continuity of service is necessary. Hunting and 4X4 recreationists use the area regularly.

The No Action Alternative would result in few cumulative impacts to resources, but may have an impact to the clients of Mountain Parks Electric. If service is not consistent, the health and safety of these clients could be compromised. The area would remain undisturbed except for recreationists using the area. Sage grouse would continue to be preyed upon by eagles but the perch sites would be limited. Sage grouse would not be displaced by new construction and maintenance activities.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: See Appendix 2 for Tribal List.
Jackson County Commissioners

The proposed project was listed on the Kremmling Field Office internet NEPA register and NEPA public room board. No comments were received from the public.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0053-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA.

“This decision is contingent on meeting all monitoring requirements listed below.”

RATIONALE: The decision to grant Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. the North Park Feeder Line was based upon a thorough analysis by the BLM Interdisciplinary Team. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Kremmling Resource Management Plan which directs the BLM to provide the opportunity to utilize public lands for development of facilities which benefit the public, while considering environmental and agency concerns.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: The right-of-way would be inspected and monitored periodically during terms of the grant to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. The right-of-way will also be inspected after any maintenance activities to determine compliance with and effectiveness of reclamation measures.

Sites 5JA865.1, 5JA1989, and 5JA1993 will be monitored by an approved BLM contract archaeologist to ensure avoidance of the sites.

NAME OF PREPARER: Annie Sperandio

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: 7/13/2010

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist
Appendix 2 – Native American Tribal List

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Stipulations
- 2) VRM Maps
- 3) Seed Mix

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Mountain Parks Feeder Line

Project Leader: Annie Sperandio

Date Proposal Received: May 4, 2009

Date Submitted for Comment: 9/30/2009

Due Date for Comments: March 1, 2010

Need for a field Exam: 9/16/2009

Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics:

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	10/4/2009		B. Wyatt	Mountain Parks Electric would avoid sites 5JA865.1, 5JA1989, and 5JA1993. The sites would be monitored by the Contract Archaeologist to insure avoidance of the sites.
Native American	10/4/2009	1/27/2010	B. Wyatt	To data no tribe has identified any area of spiritual concern.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)			Contractor	Depending on the amount of surface disturbance, the applicant may need a storm water permit (>1 acres). The 404 Nationwide Permit #12 would cover the proposed action, depending on the actual amount of wetland disturbance on private and public land. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and following the permit and its terms and conditions.

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality Belcher	3/30/10	PB	Construction period will create fugitive dust, but the amount and duration are not significant and would not impact overall air quality.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Cassel	9/25/09	SC	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
PI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	1/27/2010	BBW	Mountain Parks Electric would avoid sites 5JA865.1, 5JA1989, and 5JA1993. The sites

				would be monitored by an approved BLM contracted Archaeologist to ensure avoidance of the sites. The project would be a no effect, There are no historic sites that would be affected.
NP	Environmental Justice Cassel	9/25/09	SC	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NI	Farmlands, Prime and Unique Belcher	4/09/10	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area. Farmlands of state or local importance will be crossed with the private land section.
NI	Floodplains Belcher	4/09/10	PB	The Michigan River floodplain would be crossed with the private land portion of the line. The 404 Nationwide Permit requires no alteration of the floodplain's functionality from the Proposed Action.
NP	Invasive, Non-native Species Johnson Torma Hughes	04/08/10	ZH	There are no known invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds) growing in the project area. Since soil or vegetation disturbing activities provide an avenue for the establishment or expansion of invasive, non-native species. Mountain Parks Electric is responsible for controlling noxious weeds in the project area.
PI	Migratory Birds McGuire	4/1/2010	MM	See Migratory Birds section.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns Wyatt	1/27/2010	BBW	To date no tribe has identified any area of spiritual concern.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4) McGuire	4/1/2010	MM	See T/E, and Sensitive Species section.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid Hodgson	12/02/09	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5) Belcher	4/09/10	PB	The Proposed Action would not affect the surface or ground water quality on public lands. If the actual ground disturbance (grading, etc.) for the entire project (private and public) is at least one acre of disturbance, then the applicant is responsible for obtaining a stormwater permit.
PI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2) Belcher	4/09/10	PB	There would be no impacts to wetlands and riparian zones if the design features are followed in the proposed action. Mountain Parks Electric would not create any impacts to these areas in the No Action Alternative but the public may still impact these areas.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers Windsor	11/17/09	AW	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness Monkouski	5/3/10	JJM	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)				
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1) Belcher	4/09/2010	PB	See the Soils Section.
PI	Vegetation Johnson	10/3/2009	PT	Impacts to the vegetation would be minor if the

	(Finding on Standard 3) Torma			disturbance was reseeded and monitored for success. The No Action Alternative may still have minor impacts to vegetation from recreationists in the area.
PI	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	4/1/2010	MM	See Aquatic Wildlife section.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	4/1/2010	MM	The proposed project would not conflict with terrestrial wildlife since habitat disturbance would be minimal.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Access/Transportation Monkouski	5/3/10	JJM	The current designation is "Open" for Off Highway Vehicle use and there are no restrictions for mechanized or non-motorized travel in the area. The proposed feeder line is along a well established two-track route. The staging area would not interfere with public access and transportation since there is no proposal to temporarily close the route. No change in access. No Impacts.
NP	Forest Management K. Belcher	4/09/10	KB	There are no forested lands in the project area.
NI	Geology and Minerals Hodgson	12/02/09	KH	No impacts.
NI	Fire Wyatt	1/27/2010	BBW	All vehicles should carry an ABC fire extinguisher and shovel.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights Belcher	4/09/10	PB	There would be no impacts to hydrology or water rights from the Proposed Action.
PI	Paleontology Rupp	1/15/10	FGR	Paleontological inventory did not discover any fossils at or near the surface however, Coalmont bedrock will likely be encountered while drilling holes for the power poles. BLM standard stipulation regarding the discovery of fossils during construction will apply (Stipulation #16). Any fossils discovered during construction would require work suspension at the point of discovery and immediate notification to the BLM authorized officer. Discoveries would be left intact and construction may not resume until the authorized officer provides written approval to proceed.
NI	Noise Monkouski	5/3/10	JJM	There are no homes in the proposed action immediate area. There would be minimal short term impacts from noise during the access and construction period.
NI	Range Management Johnson Torma	10/3/2009	PT	The proposed action or no action alternative would not impact livestock grazing.
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations Sperandio	5/7/10	AS	There are three ROWs for roads: COC-40596, COC-54340, and COC-58516; Two ROWs for telephone lines: COC-0115591 and COC-9231; Three ROWs for power lines: COC-12349, COC-22720, and COC-8482; One irrigation ditch: COC-09841. No impacts would occur in the proposed area.
NI	Recreation Monkouski Windsor	5/3/10	JJM	Existing recreational uses in the general area include hunting, hiking, wild life viewing; snowmobiling and driving for pleasure. There

				are no recreation activity plans or other special recreation designations for the area. The proposed action should have no impacts to the recreation resource.
NI	Socio-Economics Cassel	9/25/09	SC	There could be a positive effect from the proposal to the socio-economics of the Walden area by this line if it prevented power loss to homes and businesses if and when the other line goes down. In the No Action Alternative, Walden could lose power without this backup power line which could affect businesses until power was re-established.
PI	Visual Resources Windsor	11/17/09	AW	There would be minor impacts to visual resources if the design feature of moving a portion of the line 50 feet to the west is followed. No additional impacts to visual resources would occur in the No Action Alternative. Existing lines would continue to dot the landscape.
	Cumulative Impact Summary			
FINAL REVIEW				
	P&E Coordinator Cassel			

Appendix 2

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:

Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 538
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

Mr. Norman Tidzump
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center
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Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Sr., Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
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Mr. Terry Knight, Sr., NAGPRA Repres.
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
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Harvey Spoonhunter, Chairman
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THPO Director
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Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman
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Betsy Chapoose, Director
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Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

STIPULATIONS
FOR
Mountain Parks Electric
COC-73791
North Park Feeder Line

Design Features

1. Mountain Parks Electric must avoid sites 5JA865.1, 5JA1989, and 5JA1993 during construction. Mountain Parks Electric will hire a BLM approved archaeologist to monitor the sites during construction. Kremmling BLM archaeologist will also be contacted prior to construction.
2. Due to the close proximity of active sage-grouse leks, no construction can take place between March 1 to June 30 to prevent disturbance to sage-grouse during critical periods (winter, breeding, and nesting).
3. Due to the close proximity of migratory bird ponds, no construction can take place between May 15 to July 15 in T. 9 N., R. 79 W., Sections 18, 19, 20 and 29.
4. The proposed transmission line must include poles and cross arms constructed to specifications which would assure large birds such as eagles cannot be electrocuted (refer to “Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power lines,” prepared by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee, 2006).
5. All poles and cross arms must be fitted with devices that prevent perching and electrocution. In addition, the USFWS recommends line markers for both the ground wires and guy wires to prevent collisions.
6. To protect Greater sage-grouse from avian predation, the proposed power distribution poles and cross arms must be constructed with structures which would prevent perching by large avian predators such as golden eagles.
7. The applicant must obtain required permits (e.g., storm water and Section 404 permits) and follow the terms and conditions of the permits including pre-construction notification.
8. All equipment shall be washed for unwanted plant material prior to any construction activities on BLM lands. The holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods.
9. That portion of the line in VRM Class II (See VRM Management Class Map) shall be placed 50 feet east of the west boundary of the right-of-way. All access in this area must be on the east side of the power line so as to stay within the culturally cleared area.
10. All construction vehicles should carry an ABC fire extinguisher and shovel.

11. No vehicles are allowed in wetland and riparian areas during construction and maintenance.

Standard Stipulations

12. The holder shall contact the authorized officer at least 5 days prior to the anticipated start of construction and/or any surface disturbing activities. The authorized officer may require and schedule a preconstruction conference with the holder prior to the holder's commencing construction and/or surface disturbing activities on the right-of-way.
13. The holder shall mulch disturbed areas designated by the authorized officer. The type of mulch shall meet one of the following requirements:
 - (a) Straw used for mulching shall be from oats, wheat, rye, or other approved grain crops, and free from noxious weeds or other objectionable material as determined by the authorized officer. Straw mulch shall be suitable for placing with mulch blower equipment.
 - (b) Hay shall be certified weed free. Hay shall be suitable for placing with mulch blower equipment.
 - (c) Wood cellulose fiber shall be natural or cooked wood cellulose fiber, shall disperse readily in water, and shall be nontoxic. The homogeneous slurry or mixture shall be capable of application with power spray equipment. A colored dye that is non-injurious to plant growth may be used when specified. Wood cellulose fiber shall be packaged in new, labeled containers.
14. The holder shall seed all disturbed areas, using an agreed upon method suitable for the location. Seeding shall be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained as determined by the authorizing officer upon evaluation after the second growing season. Seed mix should include salt tolerant plants. (See attached seed mix.)
15. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
16. The holder shall maintain the right-of-way in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer.
17. No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 4 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.
18. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain

from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.

19. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder(s) shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.
20. When construction activity in connection with the right-of-way breaks or destroys a natural barrier used for livestock control, the gap, thus opened, shall be fenced to prevent the drift of livestock. The subject natural barrier shall be identified by the authorized officer and fenced by the holder as per instruction of the authorized officer.
21. The holder is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.

The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- a timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required.

Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource will also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources, that are related to the authorizations activities, will be mitigated at the holder's cost.

22. One month prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection shall be held to agree to an acceptable termination (and rehabilitation) plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, re-contouring, top soiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.
23. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
24. If paleontological materials (fossils) are discovered during construction and maintenance, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating the paleontological site.
25. Prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, recontouring, top soiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

SEED MIXTURE:

Broadcast Rate
(Drill seed at 1/2 rate)

<u>SEED NAME</u>	<u>Pure Live Seed</u> <u>LBS./ACRE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>POUNDS</u>
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Western Wheatgrass <i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	3 X ____ =		
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Bluebunch Wheatgrass <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	3 X ____ =		
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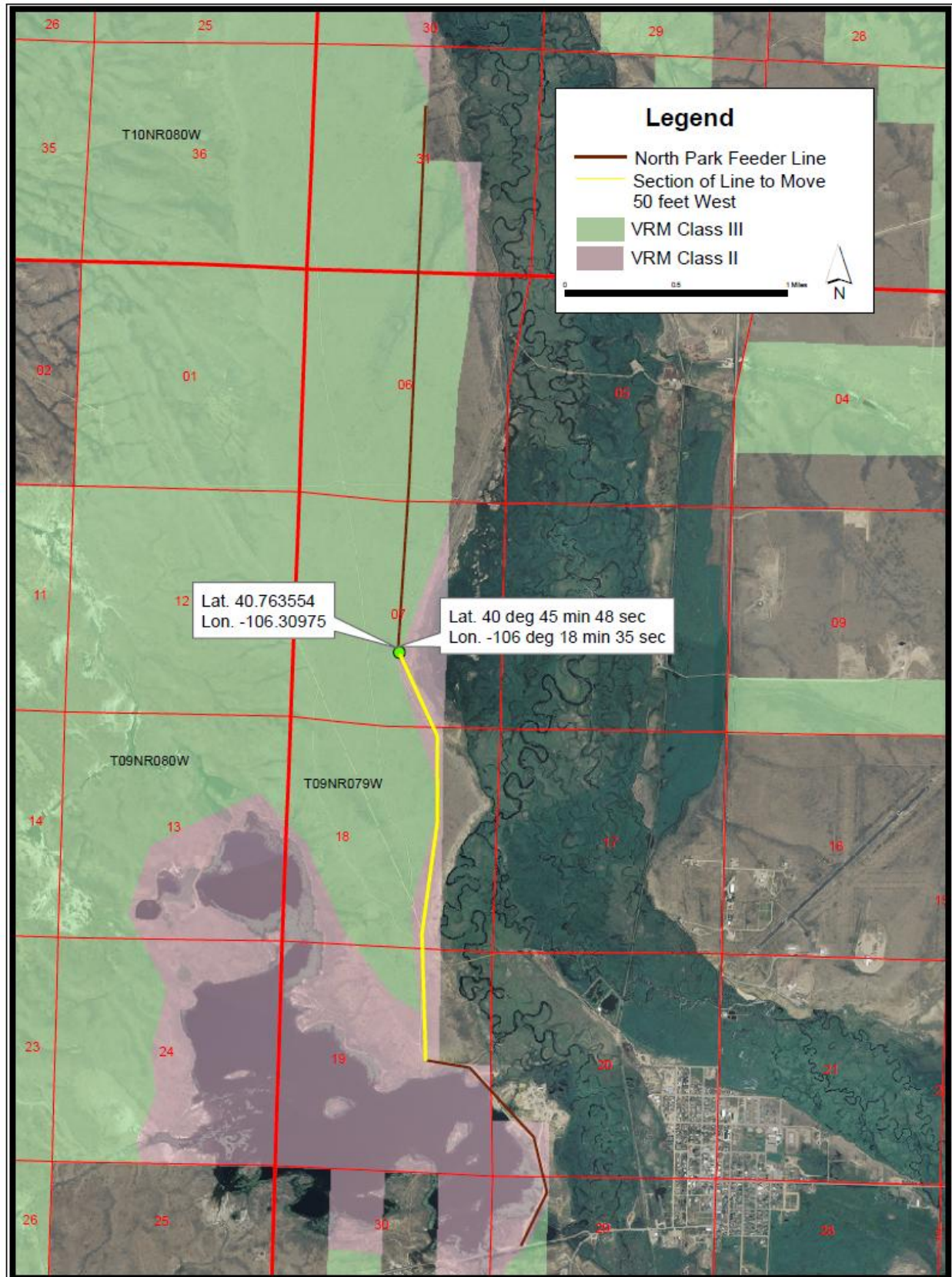
Slender Wheatgrass <i>Elymus trachycaulus ssp trachyaulus</i>	3 X ____ =		
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Canby Bluegrass <i>Poa canbyii</i>	1 X ____ =		
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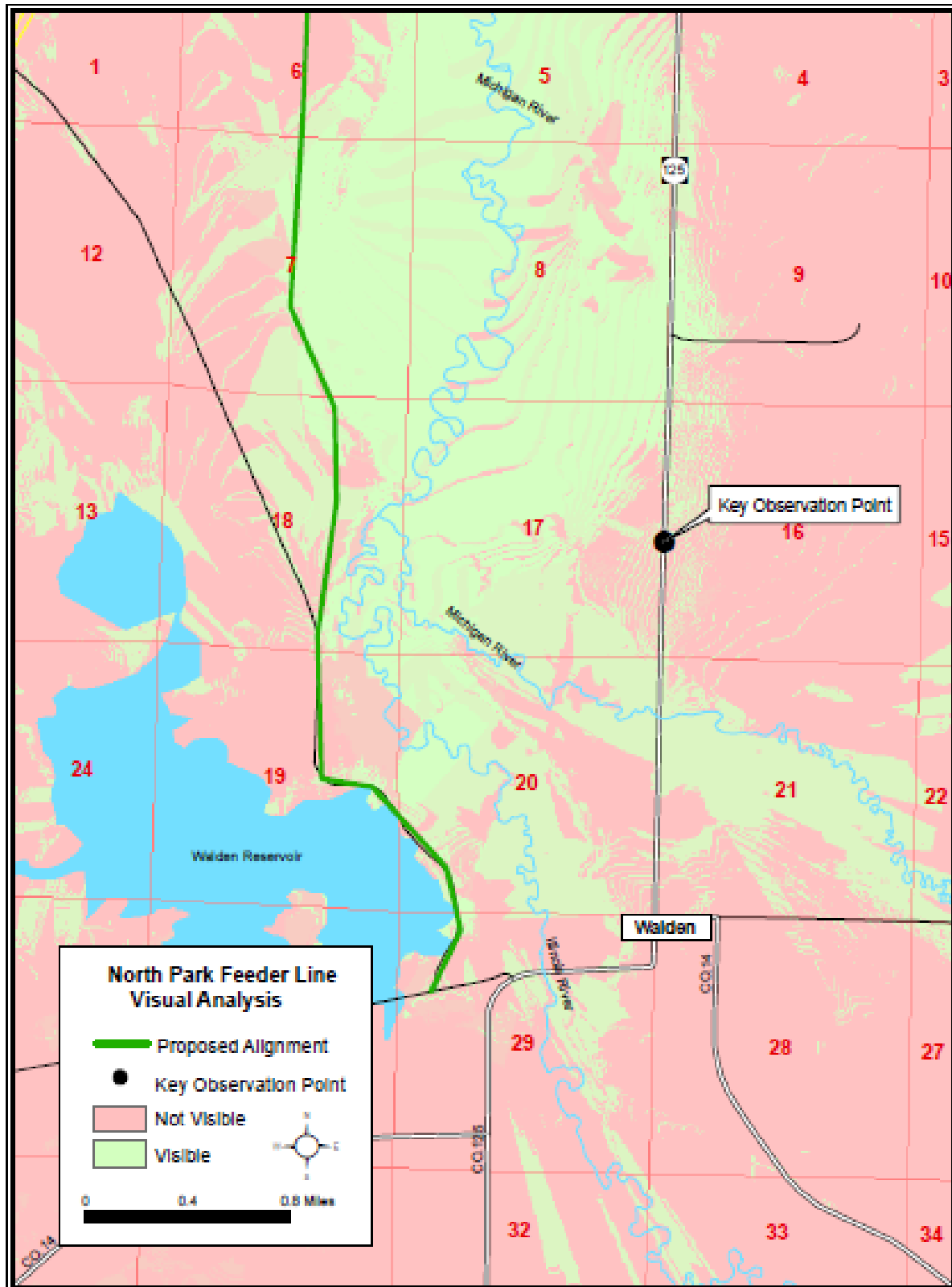
Indian Ricegrass <i>Achnatherum humenoides</i>	2 X ____ =		
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(Seed tags must be submitted to BLM after seeding.)

VRM Management Class Map



Viewshed Analysis



Contrast Rating Form

Form 8400-4

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 5/27/10

District/ Field Office: Kremmling Field Office

Resource Area:

Activity (program): Lands

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name Mountain Parks North Park Feeder Line	4. Location Township T9N, T10N	5. Location Sketch See Maps
2. Key Observation Point 1 ½ miles north of Walden on Hwy 125	Range R79W	
3. VRM Class II & III	Sections 6,7,18,19,29,31	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat river bottom; low river bluff; rolling mountains	NA	Ranch buildings
LINE	Parallel horizontal lines created by the river bottom and the bluff to the west; irregular horizontal line of mountains in background	NA	Power lines from ranch building and along the highway
COLOR	NA	Brown/Tan or green hay meadows in foreground; brown to gray river bluff in middleground; gray to blue mountains in the background	NA
TEXTURE	NA	Fine to even texture of hay meadow in foreground	NA

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	NA	NA	NA
LINE	NA	NA	Vertical lines created by the poles; evenly spaced
COLOR	NA	NA	Brown poles on top of river bluff
TEXTURE	NA	NA	NA

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING SHORT TERM X LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <u> X </u> Yes <u> </u> No (Explain on reverses side)
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)				
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	
ELEMENTS	FORM				X				X				X	3. Additional mitigating measures recommended <u> </u> Yes <u> X </u> No (Explain on reverses side)
	LINE			X					X			X		
	COLOR			X				X				X		
	TEXTURE				X				X				X	
		Evaluator's Names _____ Date _____												
		Andy Windsor _____ 5/27/10												